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WEDNESDAY
MARCH 24, 1954

What a day! I decanted myself from the train shortly after eight, had breakfast with the Conants, and by nine o'clock was closeted with a group of early rising German officials, headed by Vice-Chancellor Bluecher. According to them, European affairs were not merely in a perilous state; they had dropped into a bottomless drain. While his impatient cabinet waited, Bluecher vented his forebodings, for which there was much justification. The latest French gambit is really unbelievably reckless. The legal experts of the Quai d'Orsay have now undertaken to construe for the Germans the true meaning of the Federal Republic's Constitution. For an hour and a quarter Jim Conant and myself poured oil on these turbulent waters, then adjourned to the High Commissioner's office and indited the following telegram to the Secretary:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC MR
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